

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4376

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5589

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: "DISAPPEARED" CHILEAN EXTREMISTS: JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN

REFS: (A) STATE 191086; (B) SANTIAGO 5085

1. SUMMARY: FATHER OF CHILEAN YOUTH SUPPOSEDLY FOUND DEAD IN ARGENTINA CLAIMS THAT (1) BODY IS NOT REPEAT NOT THAT OF SON; (2) GOC SECURITY OFFICIAL HAS ADMITTED TO HIM SON WAS DETAINED AND KILLED IN CHILE; (3) THERE IS ANTI-SEMITIC ELEMENT IN PLOT TO IDENTIFY SERIES OF BODIES TURNED UP OR TO BE TURNED UP IN ARGENTINA AS THOSE OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS. EMBASSY FINDS CREDIBLE FIRST AND SECOND CLAIMS; RESERVES JUDGMENT ON THEORY OF PLOT TO "PLANT" MORE BODIES THAN THREE ALREADY FOUND, BUT CONSIDERS ANTI-SEMITIC ELEMENT UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. SIMON PERELMAN, FATHER OF JUAN CARLOS, AUG 13 GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF NOTE WRITTEN BY ARGENTINE POLICE DOCTOR GREGORIO J. FERRA, IN PILAR, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, ON JULY 21. FERRA APPARENTLY WAS MEDICAL EXAMINER OF BODY ALLEGED TO BE THAT OF JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN. NOTE GIVES DETAILS OF CERTAIN PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BODY; PERELMAN SAID THAT IT COULD BE SHOWN BY PHOTOS, DENTAL RECORDS, ETC., THAT JUAN CARLOS HAD DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT

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CHARACTERISTICS.

3. PERELMAN SAID THAT CHILEAN CONSUL BA ACKNOWLEDGED AS CLUMSY FORGERY ID CARD (CHILEAN CARNET) FOUND WITH BODY ALLEGED TO BE THAT OF SON. PHOTO WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THAT OF SON, AND THUMPRINT WAS BADLY SMUDGED. HOWEVER, NAME AND PERSONAL DATA WERE CORRECT, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF CARD MATCHED THAT OF REAL ID NUMBER OF JUAN CARLOS.

4. PERELMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GUENDELMAN AND ROBOTHAM FAMILIES (THE OTHER TWO BODIES FOUND IN ARGENTINA). IN COMPARING NOTES, THEY AGREE THAT BODIES CLAIMED TO BE GUENDELMAN AND ROBOTHAM WERE "CHARRED LUMPS". (BUT SEE SANTIAGO 5085, INDICATING THESE WERE NOT THEIR BODIES.) IN ADDITION, BODY ALLEGED TO BE JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN WAS BURNED ON HEAD, UPPER TORSO AND HANDS, IN WHAT SIMON PERELMAN SAYS ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ON SCENE AGREE WAS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT MAKE IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT.

5. PERELMAN SAID THAT AFTER FAMILY MEMBER HAD ESTABLISHED THAT BODY FOUND IN ARGENTINA WAS NOT REPEAT NOT HIS SON, HE USED PERSONAL CONTACTS TO GET INTERVIEW WITH AN ATTORNEY IN DINA (NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE). ATTORNEY TOLD PERELMAN THAT "AT TIME HIS SON WAS DETAINED, NO REGISTRATION CARD HAD BEEN FILLED OUT." THIS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, WAS CUSTOMARY WHEN DETANEES WERE TO BE KILLED. PERELMAN COULD THUS ASSUME THAT HIS SON WAS DEAD. (COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT IN AT LEAST SOME CASES DINA HAS KEPT NO WRITTEN RECORDS ON DETAINEES OR HAS ASSIGNED OTHER NAMES TO DETAINEES.)

6. PERELMAN CLAIMED THAT INFORMED SOURCES IN BUENOS AIRES, WHO HE IMPLIED WERE FELLOW JEWS, HAD SAID THAT "ORIGINAL PLAN" OF PERPETRATORS OF AFFAIR HAD BEEN TO HAVE A SERIES OF BODIES APPEAR, AND THREE SO FAR FOUND WERE ONLY PART OF PLAN WHICH HAS BACKFIRED ON GOC. HE NOTED "GUENDELMAN AND ROBOTHAM" APPEARED FIRST, FOLLOWS WEEK LATER BY "PERELMAN." NEXT SCHEDULED FIND WAS TO HAVE BEEN OF DAVID SILBERMAN (CHILEAN COMMUNIST WHO WAS MANAGER OF CHUQUICAMATA COPPER MINE UNDER ALLENDE REGIME). SILBERMAN WAS ARRESTED AT TIME OF COUP, TRIED BY MILITARY COURT, AND SENTENCED TO LONG TERM. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WAS REPORTEDLY REMOVED BY UNIFORMED MEN IN LATE 1974 FROM SANZAGO PRISON, AND WIFE HAS CONDUCTED INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN WITH EMBASSIES, FOREIGN PRESS, ETC., TO MAKE GOC PRODUCE HIM. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INQUIRIES ABOUT HIM. PERELMAN SAID SILBERMAN FAMILY TOLD HIM THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD TOLD MRS. SILBERMAN THAT "PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS" IMPERSONATING GOC OFFICIALS HAD REMOVED SILBERMAN FROM PRISON (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH COMMANDOS

HAVE EVER OPERATED HERE.) PERELMAN CONTINUED THAT FINAL BODY WAS TO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DIANA ARON, DISAPPEARED AND PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY GOC IN NOVEMBER, 1974. (DEPT HAS CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS FILES ON BOTH SILBERMAN AND ARON. NEITHER NAME APPEARS ON LISTS OF 119.)

7. PERELMAN SAID THERE IS BELIEF AMONG FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS THAT FACT ALL FIVE WERE JEWISH IMPLIED OMINOUS ANTI-SEMITISM IN GOC OR AT LEAST IN GOC SECURITY AGENCIES. EMBOFF SUGGESTED AS ALTERNATIVE THAT JEWS WERE NUMEROUS AND ACTIVE IN MIR AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS, AND THAT GREAT PRESSURE HAD BEEN PUT ON GOC IN AT LEAST THREE OF FIVE CASES MENTIONED (GUENDELMAN, PERELMAN AND SILBERMAN). PERELMAN APPEARED TO AGREE THAT RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF CASES COULD BE COINCIDENTAL.

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY AGREES WITH LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE AND WITH ISRAELI EMB THAT GOC HAS NOT REPEAT NOT SHOWN SIGNS OF ANTI-SEMITISM, BUT EMBOFF WHO HAS DEALT WITH PERELMAN HAS IMPRESSION OF SINCERE, CALM, DEEPLY MOVED MAN WHO IS PROBABLY TELLING THE TRUTH AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT. HE IS CLEARLY ANTI-GOC AND ACCEPTS THAT HIS SON IS DEAD, BUT HE HAS REMARKABLY BALANCED VIEW OF SITUATION AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS INABILITY OF USG TO INTERVENE ACTIVELY IN MATTER.
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